

WASHINGTON NEWS

Mrs. Roosevelt has taken up the "bead weaving" fad, and has done several pieces for her friends.

Senator Smoot seems to be finding Jordan a hard road to "traverse." He has been called to Utah, and there are many stories afloat as to why he should leave Washington at this critical period. It is even whispered that it is a case of "Me-thinks he doth protest too much" against the tenets of the Church of Latter Day Saints, and that they are going to put him on the gridiron in that quiet little town of Salt Lake, which only those of the extreme faith have ever been known to enter.

Can it be that Senator Smoot has been carrying water on both shoulders for the sake of a seat in the United States Senate? If that be true, he might as well resign right now. While people believed him honest in his assertions, they had no sympathy, but if he is only talking for a seat in Congress—oh, well, he would simply be unspokeable.

Brigham Roberts was honest. He did not deny having several wives. He said it was his duty as a man to provide them with comforts, and even luxuries, if he could. He said he could not do this as the man of the world did, but as the man who had loved him and the children that bore his name, and that no law was ever made that could force him to do it. He declared that he lived with but one woman, but that he was not married and protected the others. If the suspicions about Senator Smoot materialize, his name is Dennis.

The people of Statesville, N. C., want to start a library, and asked Mrs. Roosevelt to give them the first book for a nucleus, which she has done. She sent them "The Simple Life," by Charles Wagner, and it contained her photograph.

The Post Office Department is going after the fraud advertisements that perpetrate the "work at home" schemes. These people are "the worst of the worst" character, as they prey upon poor women most largely.

The President gave to the married men employed about the White House 10-pound turkeys. There were 125 men to supply, and as turkey meat brought 30 cents a pound at Christmas, the gifts cost the President a pretty penny. This was a custom established by President Arthur, but he only gave to those directly connected with the White House. President Roosevelt gave to the policemen, the gardeners, and everybody in any way connected with the White House, out doors or in.

A bill is pending in Congress to make Fort Stevens into a Military Park. This bill stands in a pretty bad way, in preservation, and is the only battlefield within the District of Columbia. It is the Fort upon whose embankments Lincoln stood to watch the repulse of old Jubal Early, who came to recapture the Capital of the United States. It has other historic associations, for it was down this road that the British came to attack Washington in 1814.

Representative Hull, of Iowa, has been reported to have a desire to quit politics, and that he would resign. He denies this rumor, and says it is just contrary to what he intends to do. He is in the fight to stay.

The Treasury Department is pretty well filled with clerks who adore the "new Cause," and who are as loyal to Virginia first, and to the Union afterward. A Virginia concern sent out a calendar the other day advertising a line of coast steamers, and it was distributed very generally through the Treasury Department. This calendar marked the holidays of Virginia in red numerals on all the other days of the month are done in black ones. Jan. 19 was in red, whereas there is no red in the calendar. "New National holiday," they declared. "The whole country was going to observe Gen. Lee's birthday hereafter," which led to the information that Jan. 19 is the anniversary of the birth of the rebel General.

Of course, it is well known that to "get a day off" is the chief ambition of the Treasury clerk, and he killed this new holiday with delight. Then one of the Auditors of the Treasury Department found out what was up, and he ordered all those calendars removed, p. d. q. too, and now the Treasury Department employees will not "take a rest" on Jan. 19.

The place left vacant by George W. Beavers, the Superintendent of the Division of Salaries and Accounts in the Post Office Department, who saw the earthquake coming and got off the earth just in time to save himself, has been filled by the appointment of C. M. Waters, who is a New York man. He has been in the service 10 years.

Nobody has been found yet to take the place of Capt. Henry Castle, Auditor for the Post Office Department, who has been whose health has failed him in the wretched Washington climate, resigned months ago, and has connected himself with a lucrative business, which he can take up and down as he likes. He understood that the Minnesota delegation demands the office for a Minnesota man, but the office requires a man of distinguished ability, and no such man can be found who is willing to take the office for a meager salary of \$4,000 a year. "We want a \$10,000 man for a \$4,000 place," said one of the delegation, "and we can find no one unselfish enough to take it." meantime, Auditor Castle is performing his duties satisfactorily.

Every President who comes into the White House has to have a full set of new dishes. The big silver and gold House china is something enormous, and by the time a four years is up, the tables of the White House present a job-lot appearance. Mrs. Cleveland hated anything that was old. She wanted everything new and smelling of varnish, so she packed all the old furniture and the old-time vases presented by Lafayette, and all those things off in the garret, and got a lot of new things. The National House of the Dolly Madison spoons melted over, and the quaint old silver cream-jugs, teapots, and other bits of century-old silverware shrank back in dark places.

When Mrs. Harrison came into the White House, she began to rummage and brought all the priceless old treasures to light. She could not do the spoons over, but she found the old pieces of silver, dented, black, and some of it worn through where the convolutions of the designs formed sharp edges. These she took to a silversmith and had "soldered" up till they looked as good as new. She got out the old, old bits of China, some of it broken, and much of it nicked, and these pieces she took to a repairer, and the silver and gold pieces were restored. She used to have all these old things setting on the quaint carved old sideboard which was presented to Mrs. Hayes by the children of an orphan's school in Ohio, its hand-crafted being done by them. It was a handsome piece of furniture, but when the Roosevelts came in, they sold it to a saloon keeper, and he now has it in his barroom. Mrs. Hayes's son tried to buy the sideboard, but the

saloon-keeper would not sell it for any price.

The old china will not fit in with the new and formal of the "restored" mansion, so Mrs. Roosevelt has decided to embellish the basement with it. It is to be placed in glass cases and labelled, so that everybody who visits it will know to which President each particular piece belonged. That is really an excellent idea. The china that did not get broken has been largely scattered around the White House by some of the employees. There is always a lively interest taken in such relics, and it is right that the visitors should be able to see them.

The Marine Band is to have a new uniform in which to appear at White House functions. They will be red, as now, but will have a change in facings and the coat and trousers will have a regular gold-line tracery of the precious metal in lace.

Representative Cooper, of Texas, a stalwart and earnest Democrat, thinks that Senator Gorman is a great and a good man, but—then he goes on to say that this really does not seem to him to be a wise move, though he would make an excellent campaign manager. Will Mr. Gorman be the Democratic nominee? He is always well spoken of by his colleagues, but singularly enough, he is winning up his enmities with Mr. Gorman is "if," or "but," or "Mr. Gorman is if," and "ifs" and "buts" won't elect him President.

Senator "Richelieu" Gorman seems to have lost his scent, or else his followers have, for a perfect storm of blasting protest against his Panama Canal utterances. The South wants the canal, and it is pretty nearly ready to pay a good price for it. But the canal is a thing which will go to the candidate who promises to be the most liberal.

Ervin H. Thorne, of Vermont, who has been in charge of the Eastern Division of Post Office Inspectors, with headquarters at New York City, has been permanently appointed Superintendent of the City Delivery Division of the Post Office Department, succeeding Charles Hedges, who was removed some months ago.

W. R. Spillman, Manhattan, Kan., formerly Chief of the Appointment Division of the Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General's Office, has been appointed Superintendent of the Rural Free Delivery Service.

And now it is Senator Warren, of Wisconsin, who is being investigated. A report that the Post Office building at Cheyenne, Wyo., is leased to the Government by Senator Warren, in violation of the rules, which prohibit any member of Congress from leasing or executing, holding or enjoying any contract or agreement made or entered into on behalf of the United States.

Sensor Warren says that he does not know whether his name is affixed to the lease in question or not. He says that he is interested in corporations which own a number of buildings in Cheyenne, and he owns several in person. He says that the Post Office occupies a part of the Warren Block, records which show that in which the Post Office has occupied and on for 20 years.

Of course, such a lease would antedate Senator Warren's entrance in the Senate. He began his service in 1891. He says that the property in question has changed hands a number of times, and that the County records will show that. He does not know whether this particular property is standing in his name, or that of a corporation in which he is interested, or not. Senator Warren says that he is absolutely ignorant of his holdings.

While it must be deliciously comfortable to have a rent roll like that, it is likely to prove "deliciously" uncomfortable, as Mr. McCallister in corporate law, or Senator Warren's name on the lease. Secretary Hay, who has been confined to his room with a severe bronchial attack, is now in a meeting, but he does not know whether he is afraid to venture out. The disease which has hoarsened his voice is very slowly to treatment. Last week he was brought to the Capitol by Thomasville, Ga., before he could get any relief from a like attack.

West Virginia has placed the second of her quota of two "illustrious sons" in Statuary Hall in the Capitol. Former Senator Kenna was the first West Virginian to be placed in the Capitol. The "War Governor of Virginia," the second. The statue will be unveiled and dedicated as soon as Congress fixes a date.

A. W. Machen, Superintendent of Free Delivery, four days after his appointment in 1893, recommended that postmen strap their letters and packages instead of tying them with a string. This recommendation was approved. Machen had stated that the straps could be bought for 10 cents each. No contract was made, however, and a New York man, who is a "friend," paying for them 12½, 15 and 17½ cents respectively, for sizes 1, 2 and 3. Just 10 years the Government lost this thing on.

In the investigation which is going on in the discovery that Machen and another "Washington" had received and "divided" up 2½ cents on each strap sold to the Government.

The department then decided to advertise for bids on straps as required by law, and the result is just made known. Sizes 1, 2 and 3 will cost the Government 4, 5 and 6 cents respectively.

Sensor Perkins has given President Roosevelt the vote of California for 1903. He says the State will be Republican by about 20,000 votes, and that if the Democrats prevent the ratification of the Canal treaty with Panama, it will add 10,000 votes to the Republican vote. Perkins wants the canal, and he is in the matter, as his son-in-law believes that the President would go about acquiring it in any dishonorable way.

An elderly cousin of the President, Miss Florence Locke, died in New York City last week, and her body was brought to Washington for burial in Rock Creek Cemetery.

Under Minister Conger's persistent urging the United States Government has taken another step toward the ratification of the commercial treaty recently ratified by the Senate. The treaty has been sent to the President to be signed by the Viceroy, and will then be brought to the President and presented to the throne for ratification.

It really seems a pity, so long as there was such an unspokeable lot of "dodgers" in the Post Office scandals and so many men whose actions were unquestionably beset with graft and fraud, that the names of some were dragged in "by the hair of the head," and were just to add bulk to an already unwieldy report, with no surety that charges against them could be made to stick.

In the report made by Bristol, Conrad and Bonaparte, on the charges of fraud regarding the placing in the Department of the Brand-Dent cashiers, they suggested that Judge Baldwin, United States District Court at St. Paul, Minn., might be mixed up in the matter, as his son-in-law was a local agent for the Brand-Dent Company.

This particular charge was referred to Third Assistant Secretary H. D. Pierce, who made an exhaustive investigation,

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Rockefellers and others of the Standard Oil combine, and the Goulds.

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The day before Christmas a large box of the most beautiful white roses were sent by the President and Mrs. Roosevelt to Mrs. McKinley to place on the casket of the late President.

There was nothing doing in the way of extra decoration about the historic rooms, a few flowers and greens sparsely set around on mirror rests and mantels—that was all, excepting in the State Dining Room. Here there were the gorges Christmas trees done up in regulation tinsel and part-colored electric bulbs. It was very handsome, and there was holly and mistletoe, and more roses and carnations. The great table was decorated with vases of flowers, and the handsome silver candelabra had red caps.

Mrs. Roosevelt received the little guests alone, but was assisted in entertaining them by the State Dining Room. A few of her mothers, Miss Alice Roosevelt, who does not like "kid" parties, left for New York Saturday morning, and escaped the party. The President helped Mrs. Roosevelt in the dining room, and the court was steamed oysters, and these the President served himself. The dining room was too small to hold all the youngsters, so the President corralled a hundred Mrs. McKinley's Parrots, which opened the State Dining Room, and served them there.

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The banquet was preceded by a vaudeville concert presented by a Chicago band, and the other music was furnished by the Marine Band. There were in the East Room was cleared up and the children danced. It was such a pretty sight. The little girls looked like fairies in their pretty party dresses, and the miniature men in knee breeches and top hats. Some of the wee ones found it great fun to slide on the priceless, polished floor of the East Room.

There was a whole troop of Roosevelts, five Miss Roosevelts of the first cousin degree from New York, and all the Roosevelt children—Theodore, Archie, Ethel, Kermit and Quentin—and they certainly did have a lot of fun.

It has been many a long day since the White House mistress gave a children's party. No President who has ever occupied the White House had children, and an age to enjoy parties like this. President Johnson gave a long-to-be-remembered one for the little Pattersons, but on the whole, this is the most brilliant and successful Christmas has ever been held in the White House.

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One of Quentin's presents was a miniature farm wagon, seven feet long and perfect in every detail. He was wildly happy over it, and now demands that he be allowed to draw it. He will probably get it, for the President is a most indulgent father.

Representation Richardson, of Tennessee, who is the Most High and Mighty Potentate—or something or other—of the Scotch Rite Brethren, and who is "declaiming" politics to a crowd of his new job, is having pipe dreams. He has been in a dozen years have the Democrats had so bright a chance to wipe up the earth with the Republicans. He says that the "Providence" has removed the Democratic differences on the money question.

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The Committee having in charge the construction of the proposed building for Representatives' Offices, Speaker Cannon is Chairman, reports that the titles to the square of ground are all clear. The process of tearing down and removing the buildings on the ground will now begin. The land itself will cost the Government \$741,000.

The President has appointed Lawrence D. Murray Assistant Secretary of the Department of Commerce and Labor, where at "labor" registers a kick. It is said that "labor" considers that the President has given a "kick" by this appointment, as Mr. Murray has been placed in certain financial institutions controlled by the

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This particular charge was referred to Third Assistant Secretary H. D. Pierce, who made an exhaustive investigation,

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